

(d) if so, the details of such checks made during 1990 and 1991 (upto 30 June):

(e) if not, the reasons therefor:

(f) whether the Government propose to involve ticket-checking staff to ensure punctual running of DTC buses in Delhi; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The timings of all the DTC routes have been specified. These timings are being regulated through Time Keepers and the supervisory field staff of the DTC.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of surprise checks made to ensure punctual running of DTC buses are as under:—

<i>Number of trips checked during 1990</i>	<i>Number of trips checked from January, 1991 to June, 1991</i>
5009923	2374915

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) and (d) above.

(f) and (g) The members of the checking staff of DTC are already involved in the job of ensuring the punctual running of DTC buses in Delhi. The Time Keepers are being posted at important points/terminals who keep record of the arrival and departure of buses. Apart from ensuring punctuality of the running of buses, the checking staff also undertake the checking of ticketless travellers.

Price of Gold

690. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the sudden spurt in the price of gold recently; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the price of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The increase and subsequent fall in the price of gold is attributable to combination of factors such as, speculative nature of gold, marriage season demand and varied interpretation of recent adjustments in exchange rate.

(b) Gold is not an essential commodity and Government does not regulate its price.

[Translation]

Proposal to Declare Ajmer-Nawara-Chittorgarh-Indore road as National Highway

691. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent a proposal to the Union Government to declare Ajmer-Nawara-Chittorgarh-Indore road as National Highway; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A decision about the declaration of new National Highways in various States including Rajasthan would be taken after the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Bank Branches in Rajasthan

692. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of public sector banks in Rajasthan district-wise and bank-wise;